

## The Paducah Sun

AFTERNOON AND WEEKLY.

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## A SENSIBLE VIEW OF IT.

It is very gratifying to find such sound views as these, on the matter so important as the so-called "trusts," in a Democratic paper. New York Town Topics says:

"I am not of those who see in the ill-used word 'Trusts' a harbinger and menace to the people's interests and to human development and liberty. The aggregation of vast capital to work some field of industry may be, and indeed has been, a magnificent beneficence. The Standard Oil Organization has been loaded with abuse as being distinctively the most powerful, and, therefore, most to be condemned, of the so-called 'Trusts.' To the student of the practical questions which affect the well-being of the world at large have come facts that prove that of all the business aggregations of capital the Standard Oil company or 'Trust' has been the most far-reaching and beneficent in its results. It has taken the generous crude product of Nature found in limited sections of the earth's surface; made from this a thousand refined articles, discovered by scientific minds which its capital enabled it to command, and spread them to the remotest districts of all the world, thus creating a commerce employing hundreds of thousands of hands and many hundred ships. It has carried to the homes of the peasant in Europe and the farmer in America that essential of house comfort—abundant light—at a price so small as to make the tax upon the most meagre income scarcely felt. Not three decades ago a very inferior lighting fluid from petroleum cost in the United States from fifty cent to one dollar per gallon; in the remote districts its cost was even greater. Twenty-five years ago I traveled throughout Hungary, and found the 'tallow dip,' with its unsatisfactory light, generally used. Now the candle has practically disappeared from Hungary, and in its place is the cleanly, brilliant kerosene. I doubt if there is a place where a good quality of kerosene cannot be had for less than fifteen cents per gallon. This result could only have been brought about by the enormous capital concentrated in the Standard Oil Organization, enabling it to employ cheapened means of transport by pipe lines, tank cars, tank ships, etc., and to install the latest inventions in processes and mechanical appliances for treating the crude product. It could pay for the study by scientific men of the possibilities of useful by-products of crude petroleum. It could establish everywhere depots of supplies involving an investment greater than the capital of a half dozen of the strongest banks. The extraordinary cheapening of lighting fluid has been brought about, not by wreck, ruin and losses often the cause of temporary cheap prices—but while producing large returns to the capital employed in the industry. The world at large has profited by this, and hence no one should begrudge the profits that the projectors, the capitalists, the executive managers have realized.

"Among other benefits America has derived from this 'Trust' has been also a greater development of the merchant marine than millions spent in direct subsidies could have accomplished.

"Now comes the United States Steel corporation, another 'Trust' with possibilities—if managed with broad and just views as to the relations between capital, brains, and labor—of effecting even more for the

general good than has been possible to the Standard Oil company. It can give a renewed impetus, ten fold greater than any heretofore brought to bear, toward American industrial supremacy in the trade and commerce of the world. It can do more for the increase of the American merchant marine than could have been accomplished by the proposed ship subsidy bill. It can afford abundant capital and consequent advantages in conducting business, saving of heavy discounts, employment of most approved plants, machinery, etc.—more regular employment and more liberal wages than have been possible in the steel industry and its co-ordinate or subsidiary branches under the weaker independent and competing organizations. It can, and I believe it will, pull these things, because men with brains big enough to originate and bring about this unprecedented operation must be broadminded, liberal and considerate enough to direct, curb, control and manage the leviathan in its own true interests, which will be found to be equally the true interest of the laboring or consuming public."

The suppression at Havana, Cuba, of "The Discusion," a newspaper, was brought about by a caricature having the title of "The Cuban Calvary," representing the Cuban republic personified in a Cuban soldier being crucified between two thieves, Gen. Wood being represented as one thief and President McKinley as the other, both being labeled with their names. Senator Platt was represented as a Roman soldier giving vinegar and gall in the form of the Platt amendment, while public opinion, as Mary Magdalen, was weeping at the foot of the cross. Below was the following inscription: "Destiny will not reserve us for a glorious resurrection." The president of the Cuban constitutional convention promptly called on General Wood and assured him that the members of the convention regretted the publication very much, and that it in no wise reflected the sentiment of the people of Cuba, who hold President McKinley and General Wood in the highest respect. As suppression of either free speech or free press, however, is un-American and consequently a course that would be heartily disapproved, no matter how much the privilege might be abused, by the liberators of Cuba, the great American people, the paper will be permitted to resume, and the editor will doubtless profit by the lesson.

Some of the New York papers have advanced the somewhat novel idea that laws should be passed in all large cities prohibiting the insuring of hotels, opera houses, and tenement houses. They urge in support of their claims that nearly all of the hotels and other large buildings are insured for more than their worth, and are veritable fire traps. Their owners, instead of making them fire proof, as they would certainly do if they could not insure them, allow them to remain fire traps, and daily endanger hundreds of lives, many of which would undoubtedly be lost in case of fire. This agitation, however, has thus far yielded no results in the cities.

Down at Metropolis the candidates for city office have a novel method of campaigning. One candidate rents a hall, has it heated and lighted, and employs a string band to furnish music. He then invites the other candidates to be present and speak, and of course the crowd votes him a jolly good fellow and a magnanimous aspirant for public favor. Nothing of the kind has yet been attempted in Paducah.

Former Congressman Pugh, who was an applicant for the federal judgeship of the Ninth district, will be appointed solicitor of internal revenue to succeed Solicitor Geo. M. Thomas, his father-in-law. Congressman Pugh is very popular in, as well as out of, his party and the judgeship to which he aspired having been selected for ex-Gov. W. O. Bradley, he will be given the position his father-in-law resigns.

If Cuban editors want to adopt the American journalistic method of lampooning the administration officers,

they must wait until the Cuban colt is more thoroughly broken by Uncle Sam. The balky animal has not yet consented to work in harness.

The change in baseball rules is now occasioning more trouble among a large number of the American people than the crisis in China or the situation in the Philippines.

If the powers could get up a Killenny cat fight on modern plans and let Uncle Sam act as referee, there would be no objection to their fighting from one end of China to the other.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie wants to be president McKinley's special ambassador at the coronation of Edward VII. The chances of the gratification of Mr. Carnegie's ambitions are said to be good.

Reports from the great business centers are that the prosperity of the country continues to increase. It is up to Mr. Bryan to explain how it could possibly happen under a Republican administration.

All nations no doubt admire the pluck of diminutive Japan in defying Russia, but in event of war, provided there were no intervention, it would be only a matter of time until the Scriptural tale would be reversed by the modern Goliath devouring poor little David.

A cow wrecked a double-header freight train near Chattanooga, resulting in the destruction of both engines and the death of one engineer. The troubles of the railroad company are not over, however, for the cow was killed and of course her owner will sue for damages.


Circuit Judge Toney has decided at Louisville that sureties on policemen's bonds are liable to only the city, and not to any individual, for dereliction of duty, false arrest, or abuse of authority. This renders an officer's bond of very little benefit or protection to the public at large.

The Mayfield Messenger of Monday says: "Mayfield was well represented in Paducah yesterday"—but the police say Mayfield was ill represented here Sunday. Mayfield ought to keep her booze fighters at home, especially on Sunday. There is an elegant sufficiency of the home product here, without reinforcements from other places.

Emperor William sees troublous times ahead, and has cautioned his troops to "beware of the tempter." His moody utterances seem to reveal a fear of revolution at home. The emperor should live in America and get used to it. Our country is dragged to the brink of ruin and destruction every four years—and saved with equal regularity.

The government court martial in the Philippines has evidenced its stern disapproval of the wantonly cruel and murderous deeds of some of its soldiers by sentencing two privates to hard labor for life. Their crime was one of unusual atrocity. They were alone, returning from detached duty, when they met a Filipino boy on the highway. They shot down the helpless child as they would a dog or wild animal. While the average person will agree that the sentence imposed on the heartless wretches is not too severe, there are doubtless a great many who will think shooting would have been better, as it would have taught other soldiers of murderous inclinations a lesson, and at the same time removed from human society two dangerous enemies.

It seems to be generally conceded in administration circles that the occupation of Cuba must be indefinite, or until terms satisfactory to the United States can be agreed upon. All good citizens of the United States will indorse this policy, because in following it out President McKinley is only doing what congress instructed him to do when it said to continue the present military government until the acceptance of certain conditions by the Cubans. These conditions the Cubans have refused to accept through their representatives in the constitutional convention, and the conse-



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quences must fall upon them. Second, because it is best for the Cubans, who are totally unfit for the heavy responsibilities of governing themselves at present, and whose effort to venture out upon the rough sea of self-government without the sustaining arm of a powerful nation like Uncle Sam would be sure to result in disaster sooner or later. This government has had about enough trouble over the thankless Cubans, and it seems to be universally believed that the administration's policy will at least prove wise and beneficial in the end, and that eventually Cuba will realize the greatness of the United States and seek annexation.

The Filipinos are rushing pell-mell to surrender. It was known all along that the claim of their fighting for freedom and independence was merely a baseless fabrication of the "anti-expansionists." They were fighting principally because the worthless vagrants who composed the insurgent army were too mean and too lazy to do anything but engage in guerilla warfare and plunder. True patriots would have been undaunted by the capture of their leader. In an army of true patriots every man is a leader when necessity demands. The Filipinos, had they been given the so-called freedom they professed to want, would doubtless have soon been fighting each other with the same dogged, cowardly persistence that has characterized their conduct in the closing campaign. What they need is the protection of a great big government like ours. If there isn't freedom enough for them under our rule, what do they want? If the Stars and Stripes are good enough for the 70,000,000 people of the United States to live under, it is certainly good enough for a people insured for 400 years to the tyranny of Spain.